

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00

EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /184 W
----- 033815

R 080906Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0102

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS ON US VIEW OF EC-ARAB COOPERATION

1. ALTHOUGH CONTROVERSY OVER EC-ARAB COOPERATION PROPOSALS
HAS MOVED OUT OF HEADLINES, BELGIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO
GIVE STORY PROMINENT COVERAGE AND COMMUNTARY. US DISPLEASURE
IS STRESSED UNDER SUCH HEADINGS AS "US ANGRY WITH EEC"
(CATHOLIC HET BELANG VAN LIMBURG) AND "WASHINGTON SPITEFUL"
(LIBERAL HET LAATSE NIEUWS). GENERAL TONE OF COMMENTARY
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HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF US ALTHOUGH FLEMISH SOCIALIST VOLKSGAZET

EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION.

2. CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE ARGUES THAT COOPERATION PROPOSALS HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR LONG TIME AND, FAR FROM BEING AIMED AGAINST US, ARE DESIGNED TO PLACE EUROPE AT US SIDE. PAPER SAYS THAT EUROPEANS HAD IMPRESSION AFTER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND EC-9 FONMINS MEETING MARCH 4 THAT RECONCILIATION HAD BEEN REACHED IN EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS. IT DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, THAT WASHINGTON WAS AGGRIEVED AT DECISION ON COOPERATION AND SEES IT AS FRENCH REVENGE FOR AMERICAN VICTORY AT WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. LA LIBRE BELGIQUE SAYS THAT COOPERATION PROGRAM MUST NOT BE PLACED IN CONTEXT OF "THE SMALL FRANCO-AMERICAN WAR". "THE NINE, IN SPLITTING DURING THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, MOREOVER, DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY PREFER TO LET THEIR DIFFERENCES BECOME KNOWN RATHER THAN TO OPPOSE THE US." THUS PAPER PROFESSES INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND REACTIONS IN WASHINGTON. "THE BAD AMERICAN MOOD IS...REGRETTABLE. IT SEEMS, UNFORTUNATELY, TO BE INSPIRED BY A SHORTSIGHTED POLICY SUCH AS FRANCE RECENTLY COULD BE ACCUSED OF CONDUCTING."

3. IN MIXTURE OF CRITICISM AND EXPRESSION OF UNDERSTANDING, INFLUENTIAL DE STANDAARD TAKES SECRETARY TO TASK FOR CALLING FOR EUROPEAN UNITY THEN COMPLAINING ABOUT LACK OF CONSULTATION WHEN EC-9 ADOPT COMMON POSITION. PAPER NOTES THAT SECRETARY MUST BE AWARE THAT MORE SEPARATES EUROPEANS THAN UNITES THEM AND THAT LABORIOUS EFFORTS ARE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE COMMON POLICY. PAPER ASSERTS THAT US IS INFORMED BY AND EXERTS INFLUENCE ON EUROPEANS THROUGH ITS EMBASSIES IN EUROPE. AFTER NOTING THAT SECRETARY'S ANNOYANCE IS NOT INCOMPREHENSIBLE IN VIEW OF NINE'S "HARDLY ATTRACTIVE SHOW OF INDECISION", DE STANDAARD CONCLUDES: "KISSINGER CAN ARGUE THAT IT IS EASIER TO NEGOTIATE WITH ADVERSARIES WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT THAN WITH PARTNERS WHO APPARENTLY DO NOT YET KNOW IT AT ALL. BUT WITH SARCASTIC REMARKS AND BARELY-VEILED THREATS HE IS CONTRIBUTING NEITHER TO IMPROVEMENT OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS NOR TO EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, WHICH WASHINGTON SUPPORTS, THEORETICALLY AT LEAST, UNLESS BY GOOD ATLANTIC RELATIONS HE MEANS THAT EUROPE ALLOWS ITSELF TO BE LED IN

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EVERYTHING BY AMERICA'S WISHES AND INTERESTS."

4. VOLKSGAZET, ON OTHER HAND, RECALLS THAT EUROPEANS IN THEIR "HOLY INDIGNATION" WERE ONLY TOO GLAD THAT THEY COULD WATCH AS SPECTATORS WHILE "US WAS ACTIVELY HELPING TO SAVE ONLY DEMOCRACY IN MIDDLE EAST." DURING THAT EMERGENCY "EUROPEANS WERE CERTAINLY NOT ONES TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES." NOTING FRENCH ROLE IN PUSHING FOR EC-9 DECISION ON COOPERATION

WITH ARABS, PAPER SAYS THAT "US RESERVES RIGHT TO ACT
PRECISELY AS EC COUNTRIES HAVE DONE AND TO SHELVE DECISIONS OF
WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE." VOLKSGAZET CONCLUDES THAT
"EUROPE IS ON VERY BAD ROAD. IT COULD BE BITTERLY CORRY FOR
IT."

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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